(c) whether there is any proposal for extending similar facilities in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OI URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Freedom Fighters of All India Standing who do not own a house or flat in Delhi are allotted General Pool accommodation for the bonafide medical treatment of themselves or their spouse(s). These allotments are made on the recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs and those above 70 years are allotted accommodation for lifetime.

(c) and (d) Due to acute shortage of General Pool accommodation, there is no proposal under consideration for extending the above facility in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

Recommendation of National Agriculture commission and Vaidyanathan

4246. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water supply rates for irrigation in the country from 2-3 per cent of the value of agricultural product;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the National Agriculture Commission and Vaidyanathan Committee had recommended 5-10 per cent and 6 per cent respectively for the purpose; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) According to Vaidyanathan Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water, in no State, Water rates per hectare account for more than three percent of the gross productivity per hectare of irrigated area. Although National Commission on Agriculture (1976) did not recommend any specific water charges, Irrigation Commission (1972) recommended five to twelve percent of gross income, the upper limit being applicable to cash crops. The Vaidyanathan Committee recommended on an average Rs. 310 per hectare as irrigation charges which would still be barely six percent of the gross produce per hectare of the irrigated area.

(c) The Planning Commission set up a Group of Officials (GOO) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission in December, 1992 for studying the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee and suggestions thereon to the Planning Commission to take a final view in the matter. The GOO submitted its reports to the Planning Commission in December, 1994. The copy of the report of the Vaidyanathan Committee alongwtih the recommendations made in the report of the GOO has been sent by the Planning Commission to all the States for their consideration and taking further action as deemed necessary.

Modernisation of sone canal project

4247. SHRI AAS MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of WATE RRESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the first phase modernisation of Sone Canal Project;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are reasons for not according approval so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Sone Canal Modernisation scheme Phase-I covering a Culturable Command Area of 30,000 hectares and estimated to cost Rs. 235.93 crores (1991 price level) was found acceptable by Technical Advisory Committee in November, 1993 subject to the observations that the State Government would arrange clearance of the State Finance Department on the modified estimate and obtain clearance of Ministry of Environment & Forests. The State Government has not furnished the concurrence of the State Finance Department and clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(c) Clearance of the projects depends upon how soon the State Government is able to comply with the observations of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Delay in the Execution of Sardar Sarovar Project

4248. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sarovar Project running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the financial and other implications of the delay in the execution of the project;

(c) the reasons for delay in execution of the project;

(d) whether Government have under consideration to fix any time limit for completion of the project to avoid cost escalation and dislocation of the people for the minimum period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d) The construction work on Sardar Sarovar Project is progressing as per schedule except for the River Bed Power House which is logging behind due to difficulties in obtaining Turbo Generating sets from Japan owing to the suspension of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) assistance. Delay in the execution of the project will result in cost escalation and delay in deriving the benefits from the project. All possible steps are being taken to complete the project as planned by 2000 A.D.

Irrigation with the Help of Solar energy

4249. SHRI DILIP SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether irrigation on experimental basis is being done with the help of solar energy in the country and particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether France has provided any financial assistance for experiments;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions laid down for the same; and

(e) the nature of pilot projects to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A project was launched by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in August, 1993 on deployment of 1000 Solar photovoltaic water pumping system for agricultural and related uses. 521 solar photovoltaic pumps have so far been installed in 21 states/union territories of which 3 are in Madhya Pradesh. A package